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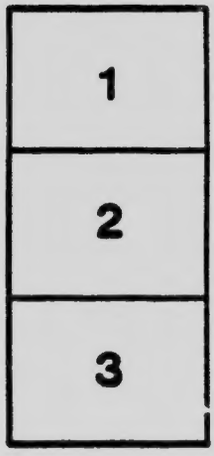

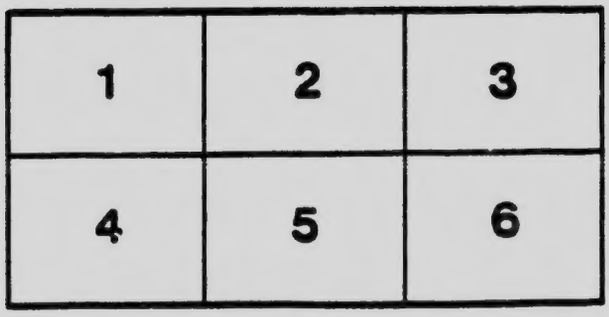

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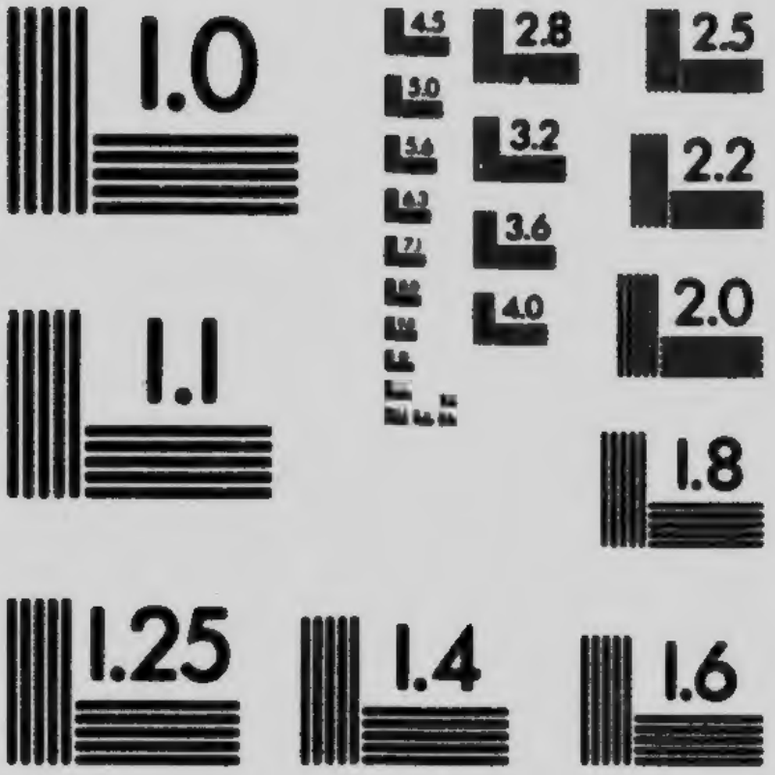

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Further Appeal

For the Blind - -

A VINDICATION

... BY ...

Walter A. Ratcliffe,

PORT HOPE, ONT.

Arthur W. Beall, M.A.,

PETERBOROUGH, ONT.

LIGHT, LIGHT---MORE LIGHT!" Goethe

1911

(Read and Lend)

0 000515

A Further Appeal for the Blind

BY WALTER A. RATCLIFFE, PORT HOPE.

Because there are little boys and girls in Ontario who because of their defective sight or their total lack of sight, are unable to profit by our public schools, and because the Provincial Institution for the education of the blind is so grossly mismanaged, so wretchedly principaled that none but one totally ignorant of it or heartlessly criminal could advise a parent to send a child to it for even one term, these pages are written.

Early last March I published my "An Appeal for the Blind." In June Mr. Beall made a statement to the Secretary of the Province, but not till late in the autumn was any notice taken of the charges we had made. On the 27th day of November what for convenience sake I will call an investigation was commenced. The facts connected with this investigation are briefly these:

1. Only eight days notice was given complainants of the investigation, and the information was so vague as to cause Mr. Beall and myself no little annoyance.

2. Two civil servants, Dr. Geo. J. Hodgins and Prof. Mills were appointed to investigate the charges. This was unfair to say the least.

3. Dr. Chamberlain, the Inspector of Prisons and Charities was associated with these gentlemen. This was all the guarantee A. H. Dymond needed that nothing very damaging should meet the public eye. There has never been any appeal from a decision reached by the Principal and the Inspector. Their rule of the Institution is absolute but notwithstanding this and notwithstanding the fact that the criticisms reflected upon the Inspector, he was made a judge.

4. Principal Dymond might as well have been made Associate Commissioner, for he was never absent from the enquiry room. He put questions and made statements at will. More than once he refused to answer my questions and the Commissioners sustained him

5. Part of the minutes of the several meetings were taken by Mr. W. Wickens, the faithful Friday of A. H. Dymond. The latter part of those were made by a man from Dr. Chamberlain's office.

6. The press and the public were excluded.

7. No witness was placed under oath.

8. The complainants were never treated as such, being denied the right to question any one, and being dismissed before another witness was summoned.

9. Terror reigned over the entire building. Officials fled from ex-pupils, others begged not to be placed on the stand. Pupils were told that it would be worse for them after the investigation ceased. As will be shown later on members of the staff were lashed into line.

People of Ontario, how much could an angel prove under such circumstances?

Before going further let me record my appreciation of the conduct of Prof. Mills. He was kind, easy of

approach, and throughout the investigation, gave evidence of a desire to learn the truth. I have already stated that these pages are written because of the wretched condition of the school. The course of studies is by no means elaborate. When compared with that of similar institutions of Boston, Philadelphia and New York it pales into insignifiance. The New York (city) institution for the Blind is a member of the university of the state of New York, and the literary standing of the pupils is determined by the Regent examinations. These examinations are planned to meet the requirements of the schools of the state. Mr. Wait, the Principal, assures the public that not a single rule is relaxed in favor of the blind. All questions are answered in writing and within a time limit. Notwithstanding this the Blind carried off the honors of the state. The course comprises languages, (Ancient and Modern,)—Algebra, Geometry, Physics and many other branches not dreamed of at Brantford. The Perkins Institution, Boston, and that at Overbrook, a suburb of Philadelphia, show a similar marked superiority over the Ontario Institution. Not a single pupil beginning and ending his school course in the O.I.B, could come anywhere near passing the Public School Leaving Examination. There is no reason why blind children of Ontario should be the inferiors of their seeing brothers and sisters if the Blind of New York are actually able to outdo theirs.

This measel of comparison is made, not because I desire to contrast Institutions. I am showing, and have shown that the O.I.B. is not what it ought to be. The Inspector of Prisons and Charities endeavored to belittle Mr. Beal and myself by stating that we had no experience with other Institutions. I refer him to the annual report of the above mentioned Institutes for 1899, the year in which my "An Appeal for the Blind" was written, reminding the public at the same time that Dr. Chamberlain is no more fit to inspect a school for the Blind than a poodle is to be a parish priest.

The mediocrity, even worse, of the literary work done is by no means the only reason why I have criticized the O.I.B. It is not by any means the most important reason. Mr. Beall made charges last June and they were amply sustained before the commission. I charge here as I charged a year ago, that A. H. Dymond, by his stupidity, his blundering, his lack of heart, his indifference to the rights of others, his total ignorance of the fitness of things has transformed the Institution into a moral quagmire, a destroy er rather than a developer. I cannot say what I want to say. When I asked a physician if there was any technical name for the practice that prevailed amongst the male pupils for years. he answered. "You will have to call it sexual perversion. That means many things." Children seven or eight years of age enter the Institution healthly and innocent, but leave it a few years later blasted because they were herded with seniors who had been similarly poisoned, or who were vicious before entering the school. A. H. Dymond must be held responsible for this awful state of affairs, for no one rules in that school but him.

For the benefit of those who have not read "An appeal for the blind." the writer's main charges may be briefly stated, as follows:

1. Too much attention is given to making a park of the premises.

2. The dormitories are over-crowded and unfurnished.

3. The closets are antiquated and inadequate.

4. The pupils have no sitting room in all the building.

5. Manual labor is discredited by being used as a punishment.

6. Teachers and other members of the staff are, with but few exceptions, not the friends of pupils but their guards and turn-keys.

7. Pupils are fed and housed in the plainest possible manner, while officials fare sumptuously.

8. Salaries paid to officers are out of all proportion to services rendered, and are much higher than are paid to teachers in the City of Brantford.

10. Teachers are domiciled at the Institution, thus becoming first indifferent, and later apathetic towards the helpless little ones committed to their care.

11. The Principal is incompetent, non-progressive, unsympathetic, unapproachable, autocratic and tyrannical.

12. The staff as at present constituted is too large, too expensive and fails utterly to secure the physical, intellectual, moral and aesthetic development of the blind of this province.

13. The Institution farm is a permanent sink-hole for the taxes wrung from the people.

14. The Institution is properly a part of Ontario's system of Education, and should therefore be under the control of the department of education and not as now, be classed with prisons and charities.

15. The Institution does absolutely nothing to assist pupils who have severed their connection with it to earn a living; consequently in many cases all that has been spent to this end is practically lost.

The foregoing are the chief criticism embodied in the panphlet "An appeal for the blind," and a brief comment upon them will indicate how little investigating has really been done.

In his report of eighteen hundred and ninety-nine Principal Dymond asks for the appointment of a man skilled in the training of trees. The pupils must leave the Institution early in June each year and do not return until about the middle of September, so that even if they could see the shrubbery they are away from it at the period of its greatest beauty. The principal and a few other officials alone reap the fruit of all this expenditure. The girl's walk is crooked, short and irregular, and the boy's walks, though better, are unconnected; the best walk on the grounds is much frequented on summer evenings by citizens of Brantford, the baby carriages causing the pupils no little inconvenience at times. There is land enough about the institution to give the pupils several miles of walks. These carefully constructed, would be far more beneficial to the pupils than any amount of shrubbery that can be planted.

There is not so much as a chair in the pupils sleeping rooms. Even the public wards of hospitals and the cells of county goals supply each imate with a chair and a table. For the very young pupils this is not necessary, but for the majority it is. Let it be now borne in mind that I am not now pleading for those who are adult when admitted. I plead for those who enter the school at an early age and who grow up in it.

There is not a sitting room for pupils. Think of the hours that are spent aimlessly rambling up and down or sitting on the steps of the stairs. This time might be employed if only those in charge cared as much for the pupils' welfare as they do for ostentations show. It is argued by the Principal that there is not room. There is plenty of room if it were not wasted. There is no good reason why teachers, music instructors, tuning instructors or instructors in manuel work should board and lodge in the house. The supervisors, nurses and matron are the only persons required in the building continuously. There

would be a better feeling between pupils and instructors if the latter did not live, and live in luxury, in the building, and there would be plenty of room for all the school's needs if the present space was utilized for school purposes. There are three substantial handsome residences on the grounds. By employing only needed officers and insisting that they board and house themselves out of the salary paid them, the cottage system should be introduced at once.

It is a shame that the cheapest, plainest food, served in the most inartistic fashion, should be considered good enough for the Blind. The teachers do not eat with their charge but in a well-appointed dining-room. Gross upon gross of such canned goods as sardines, salmon, peas, corn and tomatoes were bought last year, but the pupils did not taste them. Prunes, dried apples, white bean etc,, were served to them. Is this in accordance with the will of the people who pay for it? Just here it may be said that the supplies for the Institution are bought in the dearest possible way. A little of this retail dealer. and a little of that one. Why is the year's stock not ordered and received at once thus effecting a saving of time and money? This Institution buys each year many pairs of boots for pupils. Why are they not purchased from the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Belleville, where they are made?

According to the official statement of the Provincial Treasurer for 1899 just 8540 pounds of sugar was used at the Institution. Four and a quarter tons is a large amount of sugar for one year. The principal of this institution costs the province any sum ranging from $3500,00 to $4500,00 a year. He is not a clever man either. The principal of the public schools of Brantford receives only $1100,00 a year and the principal of Brantford collegiate Institute receives $1800,00 a year. Both are practical teachers and university men. Is there any reason for so great a difference? These gentlemen do not leave the work they are paid to do and spend their time at church conferences. This Principal Dymond is in the habit of doing. For example he absented himself from the Institution and betook himself to Chatham for several days immediately preceding the opening of the investigation. Still Doctor Chamberlain blandly imforms the Toronto World that the commissioners found everything in a satisfactory condition at the Institution.

Mr. Dymond was sick in 1899, but he was not missed, according to the annual report of that year. A second physician was called to his bedside and the province paid the bill. If sickness incapacitates a public school teacher he is allowed four weeks off duty. After that he must find a substitute or lose his position. No such treatment is accorded Principal Dymond. He did not enter his office for many weeks, nor did he find any one to take his place. Mr. Wickens, senior teacher, became acting principal and the province paid him one hundred dollars for extra services. This is not hearsay: I quote from the public accounts.

Ratepayers, do you think everything is satisfactory at the Institution for the blind?

The highest salary paid to a kindergarten teacher in the city of Brantford last year was $450.00. Mrs. Murray, who held the position of kindergarten teacher of the Institution for the first eight months of 1899 received Five Hundred dollars in cash (yearly salary) and board, lodging, laundry and everything else but her clothes, Is this too, satisfactory?

Here are a few points that from a plain citizen's standpoint are not satisfactory.

In 1899 the gas and electric light bill of the Institution was $946.20. The bill for postage stamps and post-cards was $187.40. The bill for street-car tickets was $35.00. Pupils very rarely ride in the street-cars, some never.

Four hundred tons of egg coal were consumed, presumably under the boilers and at the pumping station. Two hundred and eleven and a half tons of stove and nut coal were bought by the Institution, and paid for by the province. Think of it, reader. Two hundred and eleven tons, ten hundred weight of small coals will fill a big bin. Who burnt it? It could not possibly have been consumed in the Institution proper. But the public accounts do not throw any light upon the matter.

In spite of the fact that much coal and much energy is expended in pumping water from an uncertain spring up into tanks in the roof of the building, over $200.00 was paid to the city of Brantford for water in 1899. Why not abolish the pumping stations and draw all the water from the city mains? This would do away with the tanks, in which at least one rat is reported to have found a watery grave.

Scarcely an account appears in the official statement of expence that does not terminate with the item, sundries. Sometimes sundries cost over forty dollars. Is that satisfactory? A bill should be enumerated to the last article. It is so done except when the purchaser is a government institution. The sundries for 1899 amount to $452.57. What does that mean?

Now let us examine the farm. Last year fifty-seven loads of fertilizer were bought and spread over it, but that did not make it productive, for the Institution bought:

370 bushels of oats
64 bags of potatoes
225 quarts of milk
$4.15 worth of onions
28 tons, 215 lbs of hay and a large quantity of bran and chop.

It must be remembered that the three hundred and seventy bushels of oats were fed to the stock; rolled oats were bought for the pupils.

Though many hands are employed upon the farm one outsider received four dollars for clipping horses; another was paid seven dollars for cutting feed. The bill for repairing vehicles, quite spent from the black-smithing and horse shoeing bill, which was over thirty-five dollars, was fifty-five dollars and fifty cents. The bill for repairing harness was sixty-one dollars and fifty-one cents. This does not include the price of a new set of harness purchased.

Notwithstanding the expenditure for street car tickets and the enormous outlay for harness and vehicles, the livery bill for 1899 was thirty dollars and ten cents. This does not include cartage. What does the farm produce but expense? Is it not time this farm ceased to be? Dr. Chamberlain says the commissioners found everything satisfactory. Do you think he understands farming or that he really was prepared to see unsatisfactory things, however apparent they were?

In the early pages of this article I showed that the mode of procedure adopted by the Commission was calculated to suppress evidence rather than to bring the true facts of the case to the surface. Almost the first move Doctor Hodgins,, Chairman of the commission, made was to refuse absolutely to have anything to do with the statement made by Mr. Beall to the Provincal Secretary on the 25th of June last, on the ground that the charges contained therein were not

specific. In this contention he was overruled by Doctor Mills. The fact is that Mr. Beall's memorandum dealt with a very sad and very disgraceful state of affairs, and both Doctor Hodgins and Principal Dymond wished to shelve the question without discussion if that were possible. I charge that the complainants were at no time treated as prosecutors, but as mere witnesses, being dismissed from the enquiry room before any other witness was called. The Principal was never absent and was free to question each and every witness as he felt disposed.

Again I repeat that Doctor Chamberlain, Inspector of prisons and charities, was associated with the commissioners originally appointed, a fact in itself amply sufficient to frustrate the purpose of the enquiry, for the Principal and the Inspector held absolute sway in the Institution. There is no appeal from their decision. For this reason I unhesitatingly charge that the staff was lashed into line by threats of dismissal from the service. This charge can be proved before any non-partizan tribunal, and I court the opportunity to prove it. Officials entreated the complainants not to call them as witnesses, and within twenty-four hours two members of the staff, the two we firmly believed to be the leaders of their colleagues and the friends of the blind, completely changed their front. Read the following official statement of their evidence. Place it against the documentary evidence that follows. Bear in mind these witnesses were not under oath, and that half a score of witnesses could have been called in refutation had the complainants been allowed to call them, and then say if you can what brought about the change, if intimidation did not.

Why does this evidence not state who called Thomas Truss? Why was the author of the Ratcliffe pamphlet not given an opportunity to defend himself on the spot? What show of justice was there in the emphatic refusal of the commissioners to read Truss's evidence to him and to hear his statement then and there, or in the brutal sneer of Doctor Chamberlain that he had not proved his charges? Facts are facts; study them.

T. W. McLean, Literary Teacher. (called by Mr. Beall.)

Q. What do you know of the treatment of the teachers by the Principal?

A. I have felt that sometimes we have been dealt with severely, and sometimes leniently. My opinion has changed constantly. On the whole, I have thought that we have not been treated as fairly as I would desire. Our experience did not seem to count for much, in consultation in regard to management.

The Principal:—Have you known me to do anything towards you that you would call bullying or terrorizing; or have you seen me so treat other teachers?

A. I don't think that you have ever bullied me. If speaking sharply means bullying, I have been spoken to in that way sometimes. I really do not want to give any evidence; I would rather not give any evidence.

Q. You know whether the Principal's treatment is unduly harsh?

A. I don't think I have ever received harsh treatment. I have always felt under restraint to a certain extent. For example, one morning I was called out of the class-room to the water-closet. The Principal came and asked why I was out of the class-room. I resented it very much, and felt indignant about it.

Q. Was it the manner or the action?

A. Both. Another time I was in the Bursar's office, in the morning, waiting for a cheque. Mr. Dymond came in and asked why I was there, and called my attention to the fact

that there was a class waiting for me. Another teacher was there but nothing was said to him.

The Principal:—The other teacher had a class of music pupils?

A. Yes.

Q. It is alleged that the Principal is unduly harsh in speaking to pupils at roll-call?

A. I have thought so at times.

Q. It is said that he exercises a sort of dread over them.

A. I think the pupils have that kind of feeling, more or less.

Q. It is charged that the teachers take very little interest in the pupils beyond going through with the lessons.

A. I can't say for the others; but for myself, I can say that I have taken an interest in the boys under me in the class and out of the class.

Q. It is said the teachers do not say anything to the pupils about using bad language?

A. I have done so; and I have mentioned to the Principal cases of obscene language.

The Principal:—Is there not an improvement in moral standing in the classes in this respect?

A. Yes.

The Principal:—Have your relations and mine been pleasant?

A. Yes, I think so on the whole.

Thomas Truss, Trades Instructor.

Q. It has been hinted that you contributed to the information contained in the Ratcliffe pamphlet.

A. I positively affirm that I never inspired a line of that pamphlet, nor wrote a line of it.

Q. Are citizens of Toronto allowed to send their linen to the Institution Laundry?

A. I only know about it as a matter of Institution talk; it is ten years old.

The Principal explained that his daughter was a student in Toronto at the time referred to, and used to send her things home for the laundry.

Mr. Truss:—My home has been a kind of sanitarium for the blind, without money and without price; it has always been open to them for years past. Up to the time Mr. Ratcliffe's pamphlet was issued I was corresponding with him, although at that time I did all I could to advise him; I could see that it would probably be used for a purpose that would be objectionable, and I did what I could to dissuade him. I advised him to see the Inspector; but I was not successful.

Q. Was the Institution farmer allowed to absent himself during working hours, and have the use of the Institution horses?

A. Mr. Ratcliffe was in my house one day, and my daughter, who was sitting at the front of the house, mentioned seeing Mr. Willets ploughing his lot.

Q. Do you give the boys advice as to using bad language?

A. I have thought it an ideal institution in that respect; but sometimes I have been depressed to hear bad language, and have rebuked the boys, but I have not heard bad language in this Institution for years.

Q. It has been alleged that boys were sent to the work-shop to be degraded.

A. That is a sentiment that grew up among the pupils. The piano-tuners regard themselves as just a notch higher than the work shop boys. The feeling exists among the pupils not among the officers. I have known lady teachers that could not get along with bad boys, and the boys were sent to me, and I set them to work with the object of making workmen of them. I treat the boys in the shop all alike, there is no distinction. When I have a bad boy I endeavor to keep him between two good boys. I read a paper at the Batavia Institution some years ago, in which I gave my views as to discipline and the workshop. In the United States such institutions are usually controlled by educationists, and they invariably under-estimate the

importance of industrial training. am speaking of institutions for the blind. Mr. Ratcliffe has read my address, and I think he has copied some remarks I made in that address in his pamphlet.

Q. Do you think, from what you know of the discipline here, that the pupils are too severely handled?

A. I think we make babies of them by too much indulgence.

Q. You think they have no good reason for complaint?

A. I think not. I have heard some of the pupils complain of the Principal's tone of voice. The blind are morbidly sensitive.

Q. From your experience, do you know that pupils of an institution of this kind are difficult to manage?

A. Yes, the blind as a class are morbidly sensitive; there are exceptions, but the usual blind man is a crank. There is the case of the boy Derbyshire; his father was prejudiced against the Principal and the Institution but especially against the Principa I told the boy's father and his sis is what my experience of the boy ad been, that he was morbid, cranky and dissatisfied, but that I thought it was due to his physical debility and ailments. The boy's father acknowledged that I had given a true description of the boy's character.

Q. Would you put Ratcliffe in that class?

A. Well, Ratcliffe is a born critic: there is no balance of judgement of discrimination. Knowing his history, I could not conceive how the man could be content to go into the shop and settle down to learn to make baskets and chairs. I began to feel that I would be the subject of his criticism before very long; but I was exceedingly kind to him and tried to gain his good will. I succeeded in getting his good will, but I paid the price of it.

Q. Do you think that he, and the others, had no substantial cause for complaint?

A. I can't conceive they had; I think the whole trouble has grown out of a system of pin pricks. I give you an illustration; I heard a criticism from the dining room that the matron had been watering the maple syrup. I got a taste of the syrup and then went to the store where it was purchased, and found no difference.

The Principal;—Do you think the discipline during my time compares favorably with the time when the Institution was under an experienced educationist?

A. I think so; I have served under two educationists, and I would say, "good Lord deliver us."

Carefully read T. W. McLean's evidence. Why did he not wish to give evidence? If the Institution were even in the shadow of his ideal would he not have been glad to tell the public about it? If his relations with Principal Dymond had been cordial; if the confidence of friends and coworkers had marked their years under the same roof, would he have stammered as he did? Read the following extracts from a letter dated to me on the 15th of November, from the O. I. B., just twelve days before the opening of the investigation. Mr. McLean had received a copy of my appeal, but had lost it, and was writing for others. This is what he says: "In its transmission through the mails—for I had let it out to friends to read—it never came back, though the party I had loaned it to to assurred me that it had been posted in the regular fashion. Now I would like you to send me a couple of copies to the following address at Hamiltou; Mr. J. A. Hayter, Piano Tuner, 450 James St., North, Hamilton, as there is a friend or two in Brantford I have promised a perusal of your pamphlet to." A little lower down he writes: "The party

addressed will receive them and deliver one to me in person." If all was right in the Institution, why did Mr. McLean promise a perusal of the pamphlet to friends? Why did he wish the pamphlet sent to the Hamilton address? Are not both extracts an avowal that he suspected that the lost pamphlet fell into the Principal's hands, and was destroyed? All mail addressed to the O. I. B. passes under Principal Dymond's eye. It is worthy of note that J. A. Hayter is the piano tuning instructor of the Institution. What must be the state of affairs in which two of the senior members of the staff must conspire to smuggle into their own quarters a pamphlet that—according to the Toronto Dailies—Doctor Chamberlain has practically asserted to be a bundle of lies? Is it any wonder that Mr. Dymond insisted that his office should be a star-Chamber?

But that is not all. On the evening of the twenty-fourth of November, on the train between Toronto and Brantford, Mr. McLean expressed himself as delighted that the mismanagement of the O. I. B. was at last to be exposed. As we parted when the train drew into Brantford, he said: "The teachers are not teachers, but simply tools of the old man." "Old man" was his way of saying Mr. Dymond on that occasion. Will Mr. McLean deny that he complained to the Provincial Secretary about the conditions that prevailed and still prevail at the O. I. B.? If there was nothing the matter why did he appeal to the Government?

What wrought this teacher's sudden conversion?

Let us now analyze the evidence of Thomas Truss. For him to say that he did not inspire a line of my "Appeal for the Blind" was to utter an absolute falsehood. That pamphlet would have been written had I never spoken to Mr. Truss, but had he not sat on my bench in the workshop for an hour at a time day after day, it would have contained far fewer facts than it does contain. Never once did the Trade-Instructor attempt to dissuade me from publishing my criticism. On the contrary he again and again urged me to make it the effort of my life. Those are his words. He never to my knowledge, advised me to see the Inspector, but he did urge me to appeal to Mr. Hardy, who was then Premier. Until I heard his statement, as given above, I was in absolute ignorance of the fact that he visited the Batavia Institution and read a paper there. I have never read his address and so could not have copied from it. I freely used the information he freely gave. His statement that the blind are morbidly sensitive is a cruel slander. Had he said the blind are abnormally confiding he would have come nearer the truth. Mrs. Kirk, the Boys' nurse, more than once told me that blind children are exceptionally affectionate, and my own observation assures me that she spoke truly. It would be odd if the blind possessed no individuality. There are no more cranks to the thousand blind than there are to the thousand sighted persons. But, granting that there are, our case is the stronger, for we contend that the function of the institution is to make life easier for the blind by skill and kindness on the part of all teachers and officers to so train the minds of those committed to their care that the blemishes of their characters will, in time, have disappeared and the flowers of Patience, Truth and Love attain to their full growth and beauty.

Mr. Truss ignores the fact that my appeal was mainly for blind children. He knows that the little ones are cruelly neglected. He has mourned the fact again and again. He knows that young men and women who have been admitted to the Institution have been soured by systematic repression on the part of A. H. Dymond. His statement that I possess neither judge-

ment nor discrimination, as well as other personal remarks, are not worth challenging, nor do they affect the facts of the case. I appeal for fair treatment for the blind of this province; I appeal as a citizen, who fears no man or combination of men, as a citizen who knows the Ontario Institution for the Blind is reeking in rottenness, falsehood, deception, treachery and sham, and not as a blind man with a personal grievance to air and a petty wrong to right. Thomas Truss knows this. Here is Mr. Stewart's sworn statement:

County of York

To wit

In the matter of the investigation proceeding at the City of Brantford by the Ontario Government into the charges made by Walter Ratcliffe against the conduct and management of the Institution for the blind in Brantford, Ontario.

I, JAMES STUART, of the City of Toronto, in the County of York, Agent, make oath and say;—

1. That I was an inmate of the said Institution for the blind in Brantford, Ontario, for six terms up till June 1897.

2. I am well acquainted with Thomas Truss, the willow Instructor in the said Institution.

3. I have had read to me the pamphlet issued by the said Walter Ratcliffe reflecting upon the management and conduct of the said Institution, and on the Tenth day of September A. D. 1900 I met the said Thomas Truss on the corner of Queen and Dundas streets Toronto, and in the course of conversation which took place in the presence of a witness named John Duncan, whose evidence could be had if necessary, I asked him what he thought of Mr. Ratcliffe's pamphlet and he replied that it was all true, every bit of it.

4. On the evening of the 28th of November 1900 while I was attending there to give evidence in the said investigation I met the said Thomas Truss in the teacher's parlor at the said Institution for the blind and he stated to me then that Mr. Dymond, the Principal, of the said Institution was an English autocratic cavalier and that he told Mr. Dymond that himself not long before. On the same occasion he stated that Mr. Ratcliffe was a true whole-souled Democratic Canadian and the soul of honor, and again on the same evening I heard him say to Mr. James Hales, a solictor attending on the said investigation, that all the teachers of the said Institution, with the exception of Miss Gillen, Mr. Maclean and himself, were afraid of the Principal, Mr. Dymond.

JAMES STUART

Sworn before me at the City of Toronto in the County of York this Fifth day of December A. D. 1900.

E. COATSWORTH, JR.
A Commissioner.

How did he feel when he read that? He may not have read it, for it was not in the hands of the commissioners until nearly a week after we left Brantford. Here is my declaration, submitted when I submitted Mr. Stewart's affidavit:

MEMORANDUM

TO THE COMISSIONERS, appointed to investigate the charges made by W. A. Ratcliffe and A. W, Beall M.A. against the management of the Ontario Institution for the Blind,

Gentlemen, I, Walter A. Ratcliffe of the Town of Port Hope, Gentleman do solemnly declare that with a view to showing that intimidation was used to secure from members of the staff and others of the O. I. B. evidence that should not be damning to Principal A. H. Dymond and Inspector Dr. Chamberlain, I solemnly affirm that I had many conversations with Thomas

Truss the Trade Instructor of the O. I. B. That I frankly told him while I was yet a pupil that I was determined to publish an appeal for the blind which would severely criticize the Principal and others.

That he Thomas Truss told me many things about the Institution and its conduct.

I affirm that Thomas Truss told me that on one occasion A. H. Dymond had wilfully, knowingly and deliberately opened, read and returned to Toronto official letters addressed to the said Thomas Truss. Many times Thomas Truss told me with much indignation of this insolent and arbitrary act.

I affirm that Thomas Truss told me that on occasions when pupils asked leave to visit him at his own home A. H. Dymond was wont to sneeringly ask "Do you want these boys at your house Mr. Truss?" to which question he would answer "I do not want them but they are always welcome."

I affirm that Thomas Truss many times accused A. H. Dymond of tyranny and stated that he Thomas Truss had more than once stood between the principal and pupils saving them from being unjustly expelled.

I affirm that Thomas Truss declared he would rather bury a child than send it the Institution, stating that Eddie Brown came to it the picture of health and innocence but was leaving it a physical and moral wreck.

I affirm that Thomas Truss when decussing the merits of A. H. Dymond as an educationalist and as a principal of a great institution stated that Mr. Dymond possessed no qualifications whatever for the position he holds, he being a journalist, not always very logical, but not a teacher.

I affirm that many times I have heard Thomas Truss speak of A. H. Dymond as a snob, an autocrat and as a creature who was capable of cringing before public opinion.

I affirm that when I told Thomas Truss I was about to publish an appeal for the blind he answered "I do not say do so, but I cannot conscientiously say do not.

I affirm that at a later date he came to me direct from the Principal's office and said; the Principal was going to send for you to send you home but I strongly urged him not to send for you telling him you would tell him things he would not like to hear. I said if Ratcliffe leaves now he will bring a hornet's nest about our ears. He (Dymond) answered 'Are you afraid Mr. Truss? I am so firmly entrenched in public opinion that anything he can say will have no effect on me.' Then I turned on my heel and left him saying to myself "Let her rip."

I affirm that at a still later date Thomas Truss asked me why my pamphlet had not appeared, saying that I would be doing the Province a great service by telling all I knew. I answered that I had not been able to publish it because of lack of funds. He then told me he had twice been on the point of sending me Ten Dollars to assist me but had refrained because of the position he held.

I affirm that Thomas Truss told me that the Institution Gardener was using the Insiitution horses and implements to till land for his own use saying, "It is just like that man to toady around Dymond for what he can get out of him."

I affirm that Thomas Truss told me that for years members of A. H. Dymond's family had been in the habit of sending their soiled linen to the Institution laundry for renovation, and when I asked if the Government paid express charges each way on such parcels he said he did not know but that the supposition was that it did.

I affirm that Thomas Truss once and again told me the following story to illustrate how completely the fountain

of the milk of human kindness had dried up in A. H. Dymond.—"The widow Robertson (or Robinson) had travelled unattended with her little blind boy from Winnipeg. It is customary for such visitors to be entertained in the Guest Chamber of the Institution but A. H. Dymond refused to allow this heavy-hearted mother to remain there. She was poor and grief stricken and a stranger in Brantford. Mr. Truss took her to his own home and kept her till she was ready to return to Winnipeg. When the day came for her to take her final leave of her child Mrs. Truss went to the Institution with her. The poor woman was overcome and Mrs. Truss strove to comfort her by saying with true motherly sympathy 'I will often come to see Archie and do what I can for him.' Then the fatherly Principal exclaimed 'It is not at all necessary, there are a nurse and other officers to do all there is to do.'

In conclusion I affirm that I entertain no unkind or bitter feelings towards Thomas Truss. I desire that all the truth shall be known concerning the Institution. I desire that the blind shall be led by the truest, strongest and ablest men and women and that the Province shall receive the best possible return for money expended.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath, and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

Declared before me at the Town of Port Hope in the County of Durham this Seventh day of December A. D. 1900.

WALTER A. RATCLIFFE.

D. H. CHISHOLM.

A Commissioner &c.

I do not seek to redress wrongs done to myself. Once more I repeat that I harbor no bitter feelings towards Mr. Truss. From the depths of my heart I pity the man, who, a giant in body, is so weak in spirit that a threat could make him crawl. I gave him my confidence when he grasped my hand the day I entered his shop as a pupil. I did my best as a pupil, and the confidence I gave him grew into friendship, and that into a bond such as seldom binds one man to another. No, I feel no bitterness towards my onetime friend. Not a line of these pages would be written if the humiliation of Thomas Truss were the object.

Since A. H. Dymond became principal, progress in the O. I. B. has been unknown. Waste, incompetence, stagnation and blundering have held high carnival. This was pointed out in my "Appeal for the Blind." Thomas Truss knows the facts better than any other man in this province, for he has been longest at the Institution. He knows in his heart that I wrote truly. The following letter shows how he greeted the pamphlet:

104 St. Paul's Ave., Brantford, Ont.
March 12th, 1900.

Mr. W. A. Ratcliffe, Port Hope,

Dear Friend,—We received your pamphlet on Saturday morning after father had gone to work. When he came home he asked for it and has been reading it ever since; every now and then he bursts out laughing and pronounces it rich.

Father says they are all going round with gloomy faces, wondering "who could have told him?" "who gave him all his information?" Quite dramatic, is it not? The "King" was indisposed, so did not go to church.

The second officer, Mr. Hossie, thinks it is a terrible blow, but still makes light of it: even he is struck with the force of there being no chairs or private place for the pupils to go to. In this ase you seem to have performed a surgical operation, for which receive my congratulations.

They are all able to apply it to each other, but not to themselves.

* * * * *

Miss Dunn feels very badly indeed about it. Miss Dymond could hardly be civil to father when she met him in the sitting-room, but father is very serene. The Courier mentioned your appeal, and said they had seen some of the officials, who said they did not fear an investigation.

Thank you for the kind things you said about father. I am pleased the people should know the truth about the workshop. I never knew before that the shop was self sustaining.

* * * * *

I write this because I thought you would like to know how they were taking it. When I learn more I will write and tell it to you.

Hoping you are in better health than when you wrote me last, I remain,

Your true friend,

MARY E. TRUSS.

What hideous threat must have been held over the head of the Trade Instructor to cause him to give such evidence as was evoked from his lips at the investigation? Could it have been less than a threat of decapitation, which would carry with it not only the loss of salary but the forfeiture of the retiring allowance for upwards of thirty years' service?

Let me state here that on the day following that on which Mr. Truss testified, a citizen of Brantford told me a petition was being circulated in Mr. Truss' behalf, as certain friends of A. H. Dymond had declared that the only reform that was needed was the beheading of the Trade Instructor. I was subsequently informed that this petition, bearing a number of signatures, had been despatched to the Hon. J. R. Stratton, Secretary of the Province.

For years wrong has ruled, and now a great wrong has been committed in the hope of hiding the filth that has been accumulating for nearly two decades. Thomas Truss is a party to this wrong, and his exposure is only a part of the unmasking of the fraud. Not because he shredded with his own hands the unwritten compact that made us one in a common cause, not because he perjured himself to affix the epithet, liar, to the name of his friend, not because he spat upon as implicit a confidence as man ever reposed in man, not because he sank sacred friendship in the cess-pool of his own selfishness and cowardice is he exposed in these pages, but because he has betrayed the happiness, the welfare, the very lives of the blind boys and girls of Ontario.

Let the reader bear in mind that all the witnesses who gave evidence on behalf of the complainants were not adults when they entered the Institution. Some were only eight years of age when they became pupils. They grew up in the place and were intelligent enough to know what they were talking about. Let it also be remembered that both complainants were teachers years before they saw the Institution.

A. H. Dymond never was a teacher and is not a disciplarian, good, bad or indifferent. Mr. Truss is sure of it.

Below I give Mr. Beall's supplementary statement:

Supplementary Statement regarding the Institution for the Blind, Brantford, presented to Messrs. Hodgins & Mills, Commissioners, by Arthur W. Beall, M. A., Peterborough, Ontario, December 10, 1900.

On Thursday, November 29th, you assured me and afterwards iterated the assurance that should I desire to make any further statement you would be pleased to receive it. I now avail myself of this permission and herewith respectfully submit the following for your consideration:

What I affirmed when I said that Mr. Padden showed favoritism to the Roman Catholic boys I now re-affirm with this observation that had Mr. Padden possessed, even in a limited degree, those noble traits of character displayed by Miss Walsh, he could never have stooped to such conduct Miss Walsh and I used to confer regarding methods to help the Roman Catholic pupils, simply because she was a Christian, whereas Mr. Padden was nothing but a narrow-souled, ignorant and sinuous religionist.

I affirm that, when Principal Dymond expelled Harvey Gifford early this session, his treatment of this 18 year old lad was brutally unjust, for when the strong man cows the weak, he is brutal, and when without a thorough investigation he peremptorily expels such a one, to style him as unjust is to use mild language. Harvey Gifford, although mentally weak, has led a singularly blameless life during the three and half years I was in the Institution. I take great pleasure in testifying to the excellence of his moral character. He was the constant companion and friend of the little boys, and being especially fond of singing Salvation Army hymns, and being an authority in quoting Bible verses, he would easily become a "persona ingratia" to Mr. Padden; and so by a wicked and wilful misconstruction of perfectly innocent words, this same Mr. Padden with a two-facedness that would have done credit to Janus backed up by the testimony of a little Roman Catholic child, John J. Macdonald, who, poor child, so much resembled an idiot last session that he was sent home, (in which statement the kindergartener will concur) brought about the expulsion of Harvey Gifford. I affirm that whatever Mr. Padden might say to the contrary regarding this case I would not believe him under oath, for I know his deceitful, jesuitical (with a small "j") tactics too well. What wonder then that I demand the removal of Principal Dymond when he exhibits such an awful lack of those qualities which the true educator possesses?

I affirm that my contention regarding inspection was sound for Messrs. Kelly and Wilkinson were "Examiners" pure and simple and not "inspectors." During my stay there, in four consecutive years, by the Principal, the staff and the pupils they were styled nothing else but "examiners." Inspectors inspect, while the teachers teach, and this these gentlemen never pretended to do. They are no more inspectors than the examiners at Toronto University are.

I re-affirm my statement regarding the Institute having been a "quagmire," not because Mr. Dymond challenged or denied the statement (which he did not) but because he did acknowledge it. He acted as if he wished to get rid of an unpleasant subject. Right well he might. For I affirm that that "quagmire" I found was not an "episode" nor an "incident" but was "chronic." That carnival of bestiality of mutual pollution had been going on for years. God knows it is not egoism which makes me say that, for the constraining love of Christ, single-handed I faced this awful state of affairs sought the confidence of the sinning ones, won it, never betrayed it, and thus by teaching them "right knowledge in the right proportion," though in nearly every case all too late, the flood was stayed.

I affirm that during this present session there has been a recrudescence of this evil. Had Principal Dymond been the father he poses as being, had the O.I.B. been a "home" and not a "Home," had the chief articles of his creed been "I believe that the purpose of this Institution is to turn out noble Christlike characters" and "I believe

in the blind," there would never have been presented the awful tragedy of "old boys" hastening back to their Alma Mater to have a hand in driving from his position the man who had been mainly instrumental in marring their lives. It is against such awful conditions, distorted relations, perverted ideals and criminal neglect that I raise my voice. There may be nothing "tangible" in these statements in the estimation of the "practical politician," but as you, Dr. Hodgins, and you, Dr. Mills, are not such but are "educators," you will appreciate the force of this indictment. For I affirm that nineteen years spent in bungling, in marring, in distrusting, in repressing, in domineering, in browbeating, in "posing" as "father" and "philanthropist," in lording it as a martinet, are a sufficiently long period to be spent by the Ontario Government in placing over an Institution, purely educational in its character and aims, a man as principal with no qualifications for the work of "character-building."

I plead most earnestly that you gentlemen will recommend the erection of cottages on the grounds for the pupils, for the little ones up to twelve years of age at any rate, which shall be real homes (not "Homes") to the boys and girls living therein, with whole-souled, large-hearted, commonsense Christian educators in charge. This pre-supposes of course, the placing of the Institute under the Minister of Education where political considerations will not be a prime factor in making appointments.

I plead most earnestly that the Institute Physician be instructed to give systematic instruction on all matters relating to physical health, meals, eating and drinking, bathing, breathing, clothing and above all on personal purity and on the sacred laws of reproduction, so that knowledge which ought to be theirs and which they are bound to get, shall come to them as knowledge too sacred as ever to be regarded as unclean. Let also Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. Secretaries be invited to give periodic instruction on such topics. Too long has Zolaism been regarded as a "sine qua non" of boarding school life, which state of affairs will continue unless explicit knowledge of the sacredness of the human body, the "temple of God" and of all its sacred functions including re-production, be given in the right time and above all by the right person.

I affirm that the conduct of Thomas Truss, the wiliow instructor, in reference to this investigation and the causes leading up to it, was (to borrow Mr. Hale's language regarding it) "villainous."

I affirm that the conduct of Mr. McLean, teacher, in reference to this investigation was "peculiar" as in a long coversation with Mr. McLean on the train going to Brantford Saturday evening. Nov. 24, 1900, he gave the fullest evidence of his keen, deep sympathy with and concurrence in, the objects I had in view.

Gentlemen, Commissioners, over the nineteen years of Principal Dymond's regime, there stands written, "Mene, mene, tekel"—irreparable and egregious and criminal failure. To you has been entrusted the dread responsibility of effecting those changes absolutely necessary to the accomplishment of that high purpose in the symmetrical education of the blind, as of all others, the harmonious development of body and mind, and above all, of soul; for "The soul of all improvement is the improvement of the soul." See ye to it. My hands are clean.

The foregoing statement speaks for itself. Mr. Beall was a pupil both before and after I was. Being a student of music in the main building, he had much leisure and was consequently closely associated with the younger boys. My time was fully occupied in

the willow-shop, so that I did not know many of the younger pupils, even by name. The phase of the trouble with which he deals principally came into prominence before I became a pupil. No one has dared deny a single allegation he has made. From all that has gone before the fair-minded reader will know that no honest effort has yet been made to get at the truth. Up to the time of writing (5th January) no official report has been received from the commissioners. Why?

As already stated Doctor Chamberlain was quoted early in December as saying there was nothing wrong at the Institution. The evidence of T. W. McLean and Thomas Truss is all I have been able to secure, so far. It is all that is needed to show the nature of the enquiry. One-sided as it was, it brought out the following facts.

1. Pupils are sent to the work-shop for punishment. Mr. Truss admits this.

2. Domestic Science is taught by a lady who has no qualification for such duties. A. H. Dymond admitted this to me.

3. The assumption of this work makes it impossible for her to do part of her own work, which is entrusted to P. J. Padden, who is unfit to be an officer of the institution. He is not a teacher. Mr. Dymond admitted this also.

4. Aliens received instruction, at the Institution, as though they had been citizens. Two of these were excluded after the publication of my "Appeal." When confronted with this fact, Principal Dymond excused his conduct by blandly stating that the matter had not come under his notice. In other words he acknowledged that he admitted pupils without knowing where their homes were.

5. The method of supplying the Institution with water was criticized in the "Appeal" and the criticism was sustained by the acknowledgement that the Institution spring is often dry. The Public Accounts for 1899 show that considerably over two hundred dollars was paid to the City of Brantford for water. The use of the city water altogether would save fuel and do away with the dirty tanks situated in the upper part of the building.

6. Mr. Truss succeeded in proving that the Institution gardener did absent himself from the Institution premises during work hours and did use the Institution horses and implements to cultivate land for his own use.

7. Mr. Truss also succeeded in making Mr. Dymond say that his daughter sent her soiled linen from Toronto to Brantford to be washed at the Institution laundry. Who paid the express charges back and forth over that sixty-five miles? Not Miss Dymond certainly, nor her father, for a lunatic must see that the express rates would be more than the washing bill would amount to in Toronto. This much has been admitted before the commissioners. How much more could we have proven had we been able to put the laundresses on the stand? Mr. Dymond has raised and schooled a number of children since he became principal of the O.I.B. Did they all send their washing to Brantford?

These may appear trifles to the office-seeker and the office holder, but they are not trifles for they do not stand alone They are part of a leakage system by which public money finds its way into the pockets of officials, or is wantonly wasted.

The O.I.B. was equipped and is maintained for the benefit of the Blind, and not for the officials and their seeing children. Another point demonstrated before the commissioners is this: The pupils have fewer conveniences than are enjoyed by patients in the public wards of the General Hospitals of Hamilton, Brantford or Toronto. The Inspector of Prisons and Charities dares not deny this.

Ratepayers of Ontario, once more I appeal to you to see that the Blind of this Province are cared for according to the means you contribute for that purpose. I plead for the little ones who must grope their way all down Life's little lane strangers to the sunshine. I plead with you to answer dispassionately my question: Are the men discussed in these pages fit men to entrust with the shaping of the characters of our shadowed little one? "Men do not gather figs from thistles," nor can your children receive light from darkness. If you cast them into an atmosphere of hate, dissembling and treachery, where shall they find the impelling power of love? Are A. H. Dymond, Thos. Truss, T. W. McLean and P. J. Padden the noblest, worthiest men you can find to watch and direct the development of your children? No, a thousand times, no! Then, with tears, I implore you displace the unworthy and give your little ones guides who will lead them gently and faithfully till they be strong enough to go out into the wide, and to them dark world, alone.

Be just to them: be just to yourselves: the men at the head of affairs in Toronto have betrayed the trust you have placed in their hands. They have not investigated the charges made against the Ontario Institution for the Blind in the full light of noonday, but have deliberately gone about to cover filth with dirt. They are not statesmen, but partizans, tricksters and humbugs. They are unworthy to hold the reins of government over a free people.

I plead for the little children, but I also plead for those whose light failed when they were in the mid forenoon of life. Have they no claim upon you? There is a rumour afloat that no adult will hereafter be admitted to the Institution. This rumour seems to be well founded, for it is alleged that the present trouble was caused by the presence of adults at the school. This assertion is a lie pure and simple. The trouble is the outgrowth of years of bungling. None but a set of cowardly incapables would dream of denying admission to intelligent persons over twenty-one. None but a tyrant Pharoah would condescend to reign over a community of women and children, who could not oppose his dastardly, cowardly onslaughts. Look at the blind men on your streets, begging from door to door. There is money enough wasted annually in the public Institution of this province to equip and maintain work-shops capable of employing every blind man and women in Ontario able to work, and to give a living to every one not able to work. Will you do nothing for the army of the blind, many of whom are now tramps? For the laboring man in possession of five senses the struggle for existence is life-long and very fitting. What is it to the man without friends, without money, without sight? Deprive a man of feet, of hands, of speech, of hearing, but he is still able to take care of himself. There are many things he can do in order to maintain himself. Take away his sight and you bury him beneath the calamity of calamities.

Men and women whose hearts are hearts of flesh I plead with you to help the blind to help themselves. Make the O. I. B. a part of our system of education. Re-organize and enlarge the industrial department so that all who want work can find it. You can do this and save money.

Before closing I must mention the case of George Hopkins, a man past middle life. Before I left the school he was insulted by the Bursar. He mentioned the fact to the Trade Instructor and afterwards to me. Shortly afterwards he was excluded from the Institution. He is not very strong but he made the best small baskets of any workman in the shop. Every

sample he turned off was saleable, and in fact nearly all, if not all, his work was retailed to ladies visiting the school. Thus it will be seen that he came nearer to maintaining himself than did any other pupil. He was sent home while half a dozen poor weaklings, who will never learn to make such work as he made, are still there. He is penniless, entirely dependent upon a maiden sister, who must work out to pay his board. What is this if it is not bullying?

Now I will leave our case in your hands. Before you are the accounts of the indictment. Is it a true bill?

WALTER A. RATCLIFFE,
December, 1900.

To the People of Ontario:

A STATEMENT REGARDING THE ONTARIO INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND AT BRANTFORD, ALSO REGARDING THE INVESTIGATION HELD THERE IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER OF 1900, TOGETHER WITH SOME OF THE CAUSES LEADING UP THERETO.

BY ARTHUR W. BEALL, M.A.

Peterborough, Ontario, January 1901.

On June 25th, 1900, while in Peterborough, in an interview with the Hon. J. R. Stratton, Provincial Secretary, regarding the Institution for the education of the Blind, he requested me to put my suggestions and recommendations in writing and to send it in at once as a Cabinet meeting was to be held very soon, the 27th if I remember rightly. This I did.

In it I did not give details—I could not, as the time was totally inadequate for the preparation and compilation of such a document. I was compelled to content myself with making just a few generalizations. In it I postulated that the Institution was never intended to be anything else but "Educational";—that it was never intended to be a "Charity", or a "Home", or an "Asylum", and that justly and logically it ought to be at once placed under the Minister of Education;—that then certain other results would inevitably follow;—but that, in any case, the present Principal should be removed forthwith, for as an "Educator" he was a hopeless and disasterous failure.

That statement was duly acknowledged by the Provincial Secretary. But, until the twentieth of November last, I never knew whether any action would be taken or not. On that day, Dr. J. Geo. Hodgins, as Senior Commissioner, notified me that an Investigation was to be held Nov. 27th at Brantford. Not until Saturday Nov. 24th did Mr. Ratcliffe and I receive definite information that ALL expenses would be paid to witnesses. Notwithstanding these temporal and the more serious financial limitation, six witnesses were present beside Mr. Ratcliffe and myself. Had we had suitable notification, we could as easily have had sixty as six; for the eager interest and unanimity displayed by former pupils in rejoicing at the prospect of the removal of Principal Dymond, were as awful

as they were singularly suggestive—abnormal and bitter is the legacy of hatred exhibited towards the present Principal, and, when its universal character is taken into account, can be explained on no other hypothesis than that something was and is not only "rotten in the state of Denmark", but also that it's King was not as an Educator "sans peur et sans reproche."

Were the Institute under the Minister of Education, there would be a reasonable chance, nay a positive certainty that the Principal of such an Institution would not and could not be like the man who now so unworthily satisfies the requirements of an "Educator". But after all what better could be expected? He was not chosen because he was an "Educator" but being out of a job was considered magnificently competent to "boss the job" of swaying the destinies, of moulding the characters of the blind, bringing to the accomplishment of this task, qualifications strangely unsuited for training and equipping the blind to take their place in life as Christian citizens on an equality with those who see.

The Investigation was very unsatisfactory. The two Commissioners, both Civil Servants, were appointed to investigate charges against one of their own order. The evidence offered was not under oath. The enquiry was behind closed doors. We were forbidden to speak to any of the pupils. Principal Dymond strenuously strove to prevent two of the pupils from giving evidence against him. We were prevented by night-sessions of the Commision, from being able to confer with our counsel. The right of Principal Dymond to be present during the whole inquiry was never questioned, cross-questioning whensoever and whomsoever he pleased—the same right was not accorded to either Mr. Ratcliffe or to myself.

Mr. McLean, teacher, called by me, was a very disappointing witness. On the Saturday prior to the Inquiry, he, while in Toronto, called once or twice on Mr. Ratcliffe and myself at the hotel where we were stopping. We, however, were out. But the same evening while travelling to Brantford, we had a long conversation in which he expressed himself, in unequivocal terms, in sympathy with the objects I had in view, the placing the Institution under the minister of Education and the removal of Principal Dymond, and expressed himself as quite willing to appear as a witness, stipulating only that he should not be the only teacher I should call, so as not to make invidious distinctions. To this, of course, I consented. During the course of the conversation, he quoted the Hon. J.R. Stratton as speaking of the Principal as "Old Dymond." He also related an episode in which he had gone to the Principal to urge the importance of "spelling" as a subject of study, which proposition the Principal, Mr. McLean stated, scouted as impracticable, saying that the blind could not spell. Mr. Mc. Lean added that, as he was convinced they could learn to spell, he, on his own responsibility, set to work and very soon showed that the Principal knew nothing whatever about it, for Mr. McLean found the blind could learn to spell, if taught. (For it is scandalous that O. I. B. pupils should have their grotesque spelling made the laughing stock of everyone, and all because Principal Dymond did not, and would not have spelling regularly and systematically taught, and persistently and thoroughly drilled). Mr. McLean severely animadverted on the fact of the gymnasium-instructor having his salary substantially increased for teaching reading to the Kindergarten pupils while the Kindergartener was teaching a cooking class, while, at the same time, this instructor did not hold even a Third Class Certificate, neither did the Kindergartener hold a

diploma from any school of domestic Science. It is all too obvious that Principal Dymond considered any person was good enough for such work; on the other hand let it be noted that in this province no certificates lower than second class are issued. Mr. McLean still further showed his sympathy with and interest in ourcause by calling on me at the Kirby House, Brantford, Monday evening, Nov. 26th, and yet Mr. McLean when put on the stand was a most unsatisfactory witness. His conduct is inexplicable. Imagine him saying before the Commissioners "I really do not want to give any evidence, I would rather not give any evidence."

I am still of the opinion that Mr. McLean is at heart as strongly as ever in sympathy with the cause for which I was fighting, but a spell is on him. It is reported that subsequently he stated he could not testify, for there was "no fight in him."

I have stated elsewhere that I considered the conduct of Thomas Truss, willow-instructor, in reference to this investigation was simply "villainous," as on the night of Nov. 28th he, in conversation with James Hales Esq. M.A. Barrister, of Toronto, my counsel, so expressed himself that neither Mr. Hales nor I had the faintest suspicion that he would give any evidence other than what would be most strongly favorable to and completely confirmatory of, the position held by Mr. Ratcliffe and myself.

I understand that the Commissioners would not allow the teachers, when testifying, to give their opinion as to whether the institution should be placed under the Ministerof education. One of the officers, however, Mr. Hossie, the bursar, in conversation with me, in his office, Nov. 28th, made the significant statement regarding putting the Institution under the Minister of Education, "Oh, that's what we all want here", adding that the main obstacle thereto was principal Dymond.

The great problem with regard to the totally or partially blind of this province is how to make them self-supporting, self-respecting Christian citizens citizens of equal economic value to the state with their sighted fellows,and the moredifficult the problem is of solution, the more resolute should be the determination to bring every power to bear upon the work, to bring together the finest spirits capable of producing these results. One of the most stubborn prejudices to be overcome is that the great majority of the blind must necessarily be brothers or sisters of Bartimeus—that they are fated to be dependents. Let it once for all be understood that it costs more to make of the blind, citizens of equal economic value with their sighted fellows. On this score, however, the people of the province have lavishly provided, for with the Province at it's back, from $30,000, to $35,000 have been spent annually, in the most cheerful manner, upon the O. I. B., but the economic results are crushingly disappointing, for a man's economic value to the state, no matter how well-equipped he may be, mechanically or scientifically or intellectually, is in direct ratio to the strength of his moral character and to his tenacity upon moral verities. And when we look to-day upon the graduates and Alumni of the Ontario Institution for the Education of the Blind, during the last fifteen years, we find a number of whom it may be affirmed that whatever moral worth, that is whatever economic value, they are to the state, is in spite of the O. I. B., not because of it: the great majority of them are fighting hard to regain their moral equilibriam, ever hampered by evil habits and more evil modes of thought and haunted by sickening

memories that will not down; the remainder are doomed to a life of moral hopelessness or helpless dependence. For Sweet Charity's sake I will concede that it is possible there may be a handful who came up through great tribulation and who kept their garments white, but who at the same time have not a scintilla of gladness at the retrospect upon their "old College days." I am well aware of the gravity of this indictment; all I can say is that to understand an atmosphere one must live in it, and this I did for three and a half years; I have lived behind the scenes, I have moved beneath the surface of the life at the O. I. B. in a way which no teacher or officer ever did and I know whereof I speak. "By their fruits ye shall know them"—judged by this highest test, the results are appalling, but the blame for it must primarily rest upon the head of the Principal. For whatever aim or policy the Institution may be said to possess or not to possess, Principal Dymond must be held responsible; about twenty years his spirit has doninated, informed and permeated the Institution: and anyone who has known his powers, by polysyllabic diatribes, of riding ruthlessly rough-shod over an opponent, in public or in private, will be able to appreciate fully this man's fitness for directing the symetrical education of the blind. And right here I must protest against the aspersions emanating from a certain quarter that the blind are "morbidly sensitive." If any degree of morbid sensitiveness has been displayed by the successive generations of blind at the O. I. B., it must not be attributed to their blindness, but to those conditions of life existing at the O. I. B. under which introspection is the only alternative. A cardinal principal in true education is to have faith in one's pupils and persistently to put them on their honor. Trust and love beget trust and love—I do not mean soft sentimental love, but sacrificial love and the amount of this shown by Principal Dymond has been of microscopical proportions. He does not "believe in" the blind, consequently the blind have withheld their confidence and their affection from him, but not their fear. One thing a boy at the O.I.B. would never do (he would cut off his hand first) was to go and make a confidant of the Principal and open his quivering heart to him. For the first few weeks such a one might think the Principal was a "nice man" but he soon was disillusioned, never again to indulge in such a chimera. He learned instinctively that he was not trusted and he acted accordingly.

I iterate my demand for a change of relation and a change of Principal—that the O. I. B. shall be placed forthwith under the Minister of Education and that a new Principal be chosen, an all-round educator, not a man "out of a job,"—not a man who would regard the pupils as "pawns upon the board" with which for him to play his game—but a man whom the place shall seek,—a man who is ever a student of child-character, of their aptitudes and capabilities, a man whose one purpose is to make the school as home-like and as free from "Institutional" character as possible, all things being tributary to the supreme object of existence, which is "character",—a man whose life before and behind the pupils shall be beautiful, ever "wearing the white flower of a blameless life," and whose life shall never fail to be an incentive, an inspiration to noble, sacrificial living—a man of whom the pupils shall irresistibly be constrained to say: "After leaving our Principal's presence, we always want to be better and to work more faithfully, for there is a subtile charm about him that allways reminds us of Jesus Christ."

Then the Institution will no longer be classed among the Asylums, Re-

formatories and County Jails.—never again will inspection by the Inspector who inspects Lunatic Asylums and County Jails be regarded as the kind to which an Educational Institution of the unique character of the Ontario Institution for the Education of the blind (for that is it's full title) is justly entitled, but inspection adequate and thorough-going and suited to the dignity of the place. Just imagine the pupils at Brantford laconically remarking "Oh, yes, Chamberlain's here again—been visiting the idiots and the lunatics and the jail-birds—our turn now,—whose next? Oh, we suppose our brothers and sisters at the other penal colony at Belleville."

Then whatever are needed of the "Authorized Text-books for the Public Schools of this Province of Ontario" would be put into both "line-type" and "point" so that each pupil would have his own text-book in each subject, thereby relieving the teachers from one of their present heaviest burdens and setting them free for more profitable work. "Seeing" pupils in the Public schools study from text-books: why should British subjects because they happen to be blind be compelled to use readers compiled and edited by United States citizens? Why are these blind debarred from using our magnificent Public School Readers? Why are there not British and Canadian Histories to be had, and in abundance? Let us not forget text-books on Natural History, on Physiology and Temperance, on Composition (this subject as such has been totally neglected); and let us not forget the spelling book, that "bete noir" of the present Principal.

Then the middle wall of caste between teachers and pupils would be no more—as long as that congeries of Asylums and Institutions and County Jails exists, it is bound to exist; then would be but one table for teachers and pupils, at which the boys and girls would always meet; for never, except when the sexes thus meet as self-respecting individuals, will it be possible to inculcate the observance of table-etiquette, the little courtesies that go to make up the charm of home life, and above all personal purity, for never was a more damnatory statement than that made at the recent inquiry by one of the witnesses regarding the awful yet logical results of the un-natural and rigid separation of the boys and girls at the O. I. B. I cannot conceive a more hideous and heart-breaking story than that long chapter of secret vice, of self-abuse and mutual pollution by grown-up men with little boys, of little chaps of seven and eight going there innocent and artless and then turned adrift among a great crowd of immoral and profane companions (themselves the results of similar treatment in years gone by at the hands of others.) This marring of Christ's "little ones," this "daubing more and more from the first similitude" was not an occasional incident; this carnival of bestiality, went on for years before January 1897 (the time I entered) and went on until broken up a few months after I entered—went on unknown or unheeded take which ever horn of the dilemna you please. Unfaithful shepherds! Verily, one is tempted to fear that the supply of millstones for necklaces may run short for those who by sheer neglect or crass ignorance caused "His little ones to fall into sin!" Is there nothing tangible in this? And how was the exposure dealt with? By reprimand, or corporal punishment or by expulsion—the one who was expelled being re-admitted at the re-opening of the school the following September. Besides all this, during the first six months I was in the O. I. B., it was a veritable hell to me, for the air was ever green with obscenity and blue with profanity. And what is the supreme remedy? That "right know

ledge, in the right proportion, at the right time and by the right person will produce right results!" But as long as the proper and self-respecting co-mingling of boys and girls at table and in drawing-room is not only frowned on but actually forbidden, dire will inevitably be the results. As long as that pestilential heresy continues to prevail among vast numbers that "boys must be boys, you know!" and that a certain amount of "smut" among boys and men is either a desirable or an inevitable "sine qua non" of manhood, so long will there be a scarity of chivalrous boys and men of the type of "Sir Galahad," who sang:—

"My strength is as the strength of ten
Because my heart is pure!"

Great help could be given were the school physician instructed to complement his duties by giving "talks" to the boys suited to their various ages. But even that will not be sufficient unless the higher the wider truth be instilled and drilled into them, the sacredness of the body in which each lives, the only "true temple of God," and of the awful enormity of desecrating this temple.

Little wonder then a feeling of abiding bitterness exists in many homes towards the Principal under whom this sickening tale of horrors went on I know of nothing more blood-curdling than this moral ruining of little boys, which went on in a place that parents supposed to be a home and after they had handed them over to the tender care of a man who would be a father to them. Cruelly deceived were these parents, for no sooner were their backs turned than the little blind chaps were turned as lambs among wolves. And this went on for years and years. Is there nothing tangible in this? What further is needed to exemplify the sad truth that when the moral foundations are sapped and honey-combed, the superstructure is bound to totter, and, sooner or later, to fall unless re vitalized by Divine Life and re-energized by Divine Energy.

This last remark will provoke the question "Is there no religious instruction in the O. I. B.?" Yes, in abundance, but the fatal weakness is the lack of "Applied Christianity." Religiosity, on the one hand and a sacrificial, strong noble Christian character on the other have but little, if anything, in common. The former has been in evidence ad nauseam, BUT when the fountian-head sends forth both sweet water and bitter, the pupils will have none of it—they have not seen exemplified before them the necessary identity of morals and religion. A boy learns morality primarily as an art, and not as a science. Christian theory is of doubtful value unless invariably accompanied by Christian practice. Character — character — character—is the only touchstone of life. If some of the teachers inspired to higher living, certainly the Principal never did. His inconsistency, his capriciousness, his ungoverned temper, his uncontrolled rage; and then his roarings, and his cutting sarcasm, at morning roll-call, year in and year out, to and upon the wincing and smarting ones before him, followed ever by mellifluous and unctuously-toned "morning-prayers"—all combined to form among the boys a never-failing target for every shaft of ridicule and scorn paid back principal and interest.

As soon as the Institution is placed under the Minister of Education, a change of name will not only be pre-eminently desirable, but imperatively necessary. It should be at once christened "College," or some other equally euphonious and appropriate designation. The term "Institution" will be too redolent of its past associations with Asylums and County Jails.

Then there will be no desire or inclination on the part of partially-sighted graduates to be so ashamed of their

connection with the O. I. B. as to most carefully conceal it. When, too, the re-organization takes place, the present dormitories must be remodelled, making it impossible for more than three (two should be the maximum) to be in one room; anything that will foster the sense of self respect, of responsibility, of trustworthiness, of honor should be adopted as soon as possible. But under no circumstances should any but seniors or adults use these rooms. For the smaller ones, cottages must at once be erected, each of which should be a genuine home, but never a "Home." I have already indicated, in black enough colors, the appalling results of the present "herding" system. For everything must lead up to the one supreme end—the turning out of high, noble, Christ-like characters, in the attainment of which every factor must make it "easy to be good and hard to be evil." At present, and for long years back, the opposite has been true.

A PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

In my first statement, the one to the Provincial Secretary, I stated that I had no grievances of my own to air or to remedy. This I repeat. Neither have I had any axes to grind. Neither have I been prompted by any desire to get even with any one over mistakenly supposed "blighted hopes." I have neither had nor held any grudges against anyone. To any who may have imputed evil motives to me or placed wrong constructions upon my course, I simply say their imputations and their thoughts hav · not an atom of truth on which to rest.

The charge of ingratitude has been made; such a charge is cheap and easily made, I repudiate it—it is baseless. To the Province of Ontario I owe a deep dept of gratitude; my expressions of gratitude have ever been out-spoken and cordial. To the servants of this self-same Province of Ontario at the O. I. B., viz., it's Principal, it's staff and it's officers I never failed to pay the respect due to their various offices, to be always most courteous to them, and to speak respectfully of them, behind their backs as well as to their faces. My influence among the boys was never subversive of authority. With but one or two exceptions, this Servant of the Province always used me courteously. And why should he not have done so? He had no occasion to do otherwise. I obeyed the rules of the Institution—I acted as a gentleman should act, I am surely not to suppose that he does not habitually treat a gentleman with the courtesy due a gentleman especially when that gentleman invariably paid due deference to him and fitting respect to his office. But that Servant ought to be disillusioned by this time and ought forever to cease confounding Stewardship with Proprietorship.

I entered upon this campaign with no jauntiness. It was one of the severest struggles of my life, but "The Cry of the Children" prevailed. I would have been the most cowardly of moral cowards had I been deaf to that bitter cry. Every spark of manhood within me flamed forth. And I am in good company. I count myself honored to be one of the humblest in that mighty army of Knights of the Cross.

Long ago Isaiah pealed forth my commission thus:—"Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?"

I desire no reward excepting to hear our Lord's words, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brothers, ye have done it unto me."